

Bangalore Mirror

ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 19 | Humidity 61%

Partly Cloudy

Sensex 65,721 | Nifty 19,517 | Gold 59,522 | Silver 72,488 | Dollar 82.68 | Euro 91.17 | GBP 105.41

BAY WATCH

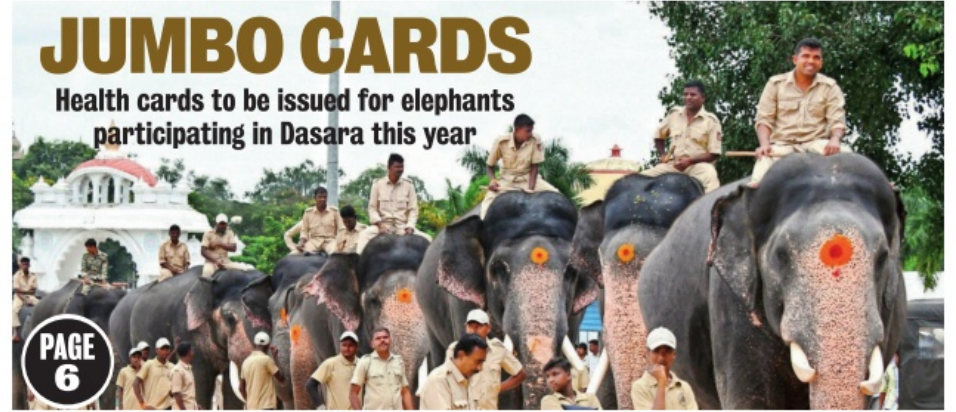
BMTC has not created enough spaces for its buses to stop, creating traffic chaos



PAGE 5

JUMBO CARDS

Health cards to be issued for elephants participating in Dasara this year



PAGE 6

Demolition squad briefly visited Nallurahalli last year and left behind a trail of smashed walls and debris. Now, some of these structures are back and debris is yet to be cleared

Q: WHAT GETS KNOCKED DOWN, BUT GETS UP AGAIN?

A: Encroachments, especially those built over storm water drains in city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Storm Water Drains (SWD) engineers are expected to be on their toes to ensure storm water drains are well maintained so that flooding can be avoided during monsoon. However, it seems like SWD engineers didn't quite have their heart in their job in and around Mahadevapura, especially at Nallurahalli. Encroachments abound on the storm water drains here, residents of the area allege, so rain water is unable to flow smoothly into the nearest water body and the result is as expected -- flooding.

The SWD engineers took up the task of clearing encroachment of the storm water drain at Nallurahalli last year. They demolished a few compound walls that were allegedly constructed on the storm water drains. The SWD engineers wanted to clear the encroachments as the Chief Minister was expected to visit Mahadevapura Assembly constituency last year. However, the compound walls were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>



“The SWD engineers demolished the walls and removed a few structures a few days before the then Chief Minister visited the area last year. But, there was no progress after that. The property owner has reconstructed the compound wall

— CM Chandrasekhar, a resident of Nallurahalli

Break the logjam

Will staggered log-in timings for different IT firms solve ORR's traffic puzzle?



Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Outer Ring Road (ORR) is often a subject of memes for its traffic jams. Now, with an innovative plan being put in place in Hyderabad, where on the advice of traffic police, IT companies have switched to staggered log-out timings of employees on various stretches, we wonder if IT city will follow suit. The staggered timings have led to a significant reduction in traffic congestion on the Western portion of Hyderabad. MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, told Bangalore Mirror that they are already in talks with the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) to chalk out a similar plan and reduce congestion on the ORR.

The IT companies in Hyderabad followed this method: Soon after getting the suggestion from traffic police, they began to send out emails regarding rescheduled timings of company buses as well as cabs. Other IT employees and officials who travel with their personal vehicles have also reported ease of commute due to varying log-out timings, especially when it is raining.

Koushik NK is an IT employee whose workplace is located on ORR. He told BM that already many companies in the area have varying log-out timings.

“If the traffic police put out an advisory or make it a mandate for companies to have log-out timings that do not align, most companies will be bound to follow and the coordination will get much better than it already is,” he said.

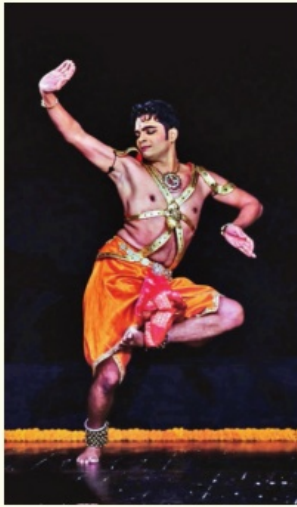
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Be classy

Adi Ashtakam, Bharatanatyam presentation based on 8 stanza compositions of the

Adi Shankaracharya Bhagavatpada will be performed by some of the talented artists in the city. These artists are Keerthana Ravi, Mithun Shyam, Vaidehi Rele Lal, Arundhati Patawardhan, Anand Sachidanandan, and Prachi Save Saathi. Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road When: Today; 10 am



02 Contemporary it is



Don't miss out the chance to watch Rhythmotion Juniors, disciples of Guru Chitra Arvind, who will be presenting Kathak and contemporary dance as part of Chinna Kalanadam 2023 this month. Where: Ravindra Kalashetra, JC Road When: August 12; 5 pm

03 Notes on point



Get the chance to attend the Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of Tripti Nair, disciple of Smt Anuradha Vikranth, in Malleswaram this month. The event is being presented by the Drishti Art Centre. Where: Seva Sadam, Malleswaram When: Today; 10 am



Let's smash it

The eagerly-awaited second season of the Grand Prix Badminton League (GPBL) is all set to start from August 27 to September 9, 2023. The trophy was unveiled by Prakash Padukone, Prashanth Prakash, Prashanth Reddy

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Crack the code to better bone strength

Experts stress on maintaining bone health to be collective effort through awareness

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Bone and joint disorders are one of the major health problems in India. Around one in five elderly and post-menopausal women suffer from a bone and joint disorder. Globally, degenerative arthritis of the hip and knee in the elderly is ranked 11th as a contributing factor to disability. With increasing age, musculoskeletal tissue shows increased fragility of bone and loss of resilience of cartilage, ligament elasticity, and muscular strength, compromising their activity in daily living.

At the Department of Orthopaedics, Victoria Hospital, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), a free bone mineral density evaluation programme was carried out that helped in evaluating and benefiting around 1,000 patients in the hospitals. The bone mineral density evaluation is done for the early detection of osteoporosis in patients so that it can be treated early, thus preventing complications of osteoporosis, including pathological fractures in the elderly and in post-menopausal women.

Generally, the bone mineral density evaluation is not carried out at the Victoria Hospital; patients have to go to various diagnostic centres for the evaluation,



Measures to improve bone health

Food habits: Dietary intake of calcium, vitamin D, and protein. Dairy products provide bone-beneficial nutrients such as calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium, and these elements have a morphological role in bone health.

Physical activity: Weight-bearing, endurance activities, including those that involve jumping and jogging, 3-5

times a week, and resistance exercises 2-3 times per week are beneficial to preserve bone health during adulthood. Resistance training is recommended to increase bone mineral density or to prevent age-related reductions in BMD.

Outdoor activities and exposure to sunlight improve bone health.

which would cost them anywhere between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000. However, with the national bone and joint day celebrated during the first week of August, the hospital came forward to provide the patients coming to the orthopaedics department with a free evaluation. This includes awareness programmes about the various

effects of bones and joints and how to deal with them, as well as basic life support training programmes for the first responders, which include health care professionals like nursing officers, group D, security, housekeeping staff, and students.

Dr Ramesh Krishna K, Dean and Director, BMCRI, and Professor and Head, Department

When to seek medical help for bone and joint diseases?

- Persistent low backache and joint pains
- Vague bone aches
- Inability to walk long distances
- Pains affecting the quality of work, life, or recreation
- Deformities

of Orthopaedics, said, "The bone mineral density evaluation is a simple method where a machine is kept on the ankle and the readings are taken on the computer. It hardly takes 3-5 minutes for the method. By doing the evaluation, we get to know if the patient is suffering from osteopenia or osteoporosis, wherein the treatment can be started early. Maintaining bone and joint health should be a collective effort on the part of the general public, health services, and through awareness."

Following the covid-19 pandemic, the department offered outpatient services to nearly 60,000 patients. About 2,500 emergency procedures and surgeries, including fracture fixation, 250 joint replacements, 200 arthroscopic (keyhole) knee and shoulder surgeries, 100 limb reconstruction and deformity correction surgeries, 30 spine surgeries, and 150 clubfoot corrections, were performed in the past year.

Robbers on the prowl

Whitefield residents worry scanty police patrolling in the area has sparked a series of lethal robberies in their area

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A watchman of an apartment complex in the Whitefield neighbourhood suffered severe injuries while fighting dacoits, but he managed to prevent the crime. Residents in the area say robbery incidents are becoming more common in the area along with Varthur and Sarjapur. They blame it on lack of police patrolling from the past few months.

A resident of the area said that in Doddanekkundi, at 3.55 am on August 5, a security guard was attacked by two dacoits, with an intention to fatally injure him.

"We were not the first apartment complex that they struck. Around 2:30 at Malleshpalya, they had already committed a robbery at a house. After that, they came in a scooter to our apartment complex. The security guard at our building was awake at that time and he saw these guys roaming in the area late at night, so he got alert," said Prijo Paul.

The guard, Baldev Rawal aka Vijay, alone fought back despite grievous injury to his head and overpowered the attackers and snatched a machete back from one of the dacoits. After sensing that people might wake up, the dacoits fled.

"He has received grievous injury to his head,

In latest incident, security guard grievously injured as he fought off armed robbers at Doddanekkundi

he had to get it stitched up. There are innumerable smaller cuts on his hands and wrist too. Currently his situation is stable and has been discharged from hospital," said Prijo.

He raised the concern that there is an absolute lack of police patrolling on the streets and this is the third such incident over the last four months on the road where this building is.

"We have filed a complaint with the HAL police station. The cops came within minutes of the attack and have assured us of all required support. But as a community we need to be actively participating in our security. One can spot that such incidents have become common and there seems to be a lack of police patrolling," he added.

Anupama Kilaru of Whitefield Rising told BM that residents have to be on a constant alert because of increasing crime in the area.

"Earlier we used to live in a neighbourhood where you would know people living around the area. But now the dynamics in the city have changed and we are not aware about the people living in our areas and this has raised security concerns. This also adds a burden on security guards," she added.

Techie, wife kill two kids before hanging themselves

A software engineer and his wife died by suicide after allegedly killing their two daughters in Bengaluru, police said on Friday.

According to the police, Veerarjun Vijay (31) and his wife Hemavati (29) killed their two daughters — 2-year-old Moksha and eight-month-old Srishthi, before hanging themselves in the Kadugodi police station limits.

"Veerarjun Vijay, who was working in a software company, married Hemavati six years ago. The couple lived in Sai Garden, Seegehalli. They died by suicide on the night of July 31 after killing their two children," a police officer said.

Further, according to officials, locals informed the police of the incident after some nearby residents complained of a foul smell.

"Locals informed us about a foul smell coming from the house (where the deceased family lived). We went to the spot and broke down the door to find all four members of the family dead," the officer said.

However, he added that the reason for the suicide has not been ascertained as yet.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Whitefield Division, said a case has been registered in connection with the incident and the investigation is ongoing.

-ANI

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Sleepless nights: Builder served notice, yet again

Night time construction causing noise, dust pollution at CV Raman Nagar

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has once again issued a notice to Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd for violating the Karnataka High Court's order on night-time construction activities (between 10 pm and 6 am). This is the third notice in the past six months to the builder, located in a residential sub-locality of CV Raman Nagar, for violating various norms at their construction site.

"We served Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd with another notice on Wednesday as we continued to receive complaints from residents in the area. Complaints of night time construction activities persist," said a KSPCB official.

The last notice was sent on June 21 after KSPCB received multiple complaints from residents living around the Bagmane campus regarding unbearable noise and dust pollution due to the builder not following the rules. The notice was sent after the state pollution control board had conducted an inspection of the site on June 13. Upon inspection, multiple violations at the construction site were noted. The notice sent to the director of Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd highlighted that the violations are serious, and further action will be initiated if no satisfactory reply with an action taken report is received by KSPCB within seven days of the notice receipt. Notably, the board had inspected the site earlier this year as well, and the first notice for non-compliance with rules was sent to tech park authorities on February 10. However, the inspection conducted in June revealed that none of



the violations highlighted by the Board in its first notice were removed.

Residents claim that KSPCB's actions contradict their previous notice to Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd on June 13.

The notice sent by the board, a copy of which is with BM, clearly mentioned that in case of disobedience, KSPCB may withdraw the consent of establishment issued to Bagmane Developers. KSPCB had also claimed to initiate action against the organization under section 31 (A) of the Air Act by issuing directions to BESCOM to disconnect the power supply, and BWSSB to disconnect the

KSPCB in its notice directed Bagmane Developers to stick to the working hours of construction activity as per the order by High Court

water supply. Under the provisions of the Air Act, a criminal case was to be filed against the builder too.

The board, in its notice, also directed Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd to stick to the working hours of construction activity as per the order passed by Karnataka High Court, cover heavy vehicles carrying soil with tarpaulin, put up barricades around the project site to avoid air and noise pollution and allot a water tanker to sprinkle water during movement of the vehicles.

However, residents allege that the developer has not followed any of these rules so far.

"It has been two months, but neither has any action has been taken by KSPCB, nor are these rules being followed by the builder at the construction site. Construction activities go on 24/7. While high noise pollution is still giving us sleepless nights, the builder has not made any effort to manage dust pollution either. We get some respite from dust only on rainy days," said

a resident of the area.

KSPCB's total apathy towards the issue forced the residents to write to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Residents allege that post this complaint, nighttime construction activities happen in total darkness most of the time.

"After raising the issue with CPCB, construction work on most nights is happening in total darkness. On the night of August 3, for instance, heavy vehicles were moving around, machines were pounding to level the ground, and excavation work was going on with no lights. During the daytime, workers can be seen getting ready for cement work, and concrete pumping begins at night. This means heavy vehicles churning mortar and making noise, and workers laying down pipes and hammering them together to create a channel to pour concrete. These activities create unbearable noise during sleeping hours. After CPCB's email to KSPCB recently, a few police officials visited the site.

Citizens fight for Avalahalli Lake's future

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The residents of Yelahanka, living close to Avalahalli Lake, have been fighting for the maintenance and development of the lake. A few months ago, the residents and members of the Green Circle organisation protested over the neglected lake that comes under the Singanayakanahalli panchayat. However, with their repeated pleas and requests to officials, the Yelahanka MLA, SR Vishwanath, met with the residents to discuss the lake issues, which have borne fruit as the Green Circle organisation has been granted permission to take over the maintenance of the lake, provided they get the necessary CSR funds or donors for the development and up-



The lake has been in a neglected state for many months

keep of the lake.

For months, the lake has been in a neglected state. Slowly, the water in the lake is depleting, and there are many other concerns, such as no fencing of the lake, leading to illegal activities, encroachments in the lake buffer zone, choked inlet and outlet, unauthorised fishing, and others. Since the panchayat officials lacked

funds to maintain the lake, the members of Green Circle state that MLA SR Vishwanath has asked the organisation to take care of the lake's maintenance.

V Selvarajan, Founder Secretary of Green Circle, said, "The meeting was a positive development. We have already reached out to companies for CSR funds and even donors; we are waiting to hear back from them. The lake needs de-weeding to be carried out, and the MLA has guaranteed that he will get it done through donors. Desilting, de-weeding, and fencing of the lake are important to be carried out at the earliest to save the lake. We will also carry out a plantation drive of 1000 plants in phase one. The BBMP forest department is providing us with the saplings, and we will start the plantation drive on Sunday."

During the meeting, the residents mainly highlighted the poor status of rajakaluves and the need to rejuvenate the lake ecosystem. Emphasis was made on connecting KrishnaSagara Lake with Avalahalli Lake. However, due to a lack of funds for the panchayat, the suggestion by the residents may not be taken up. "The south and west entry side points of the rajakaluve are clogged with plastic. However, a lot of encroachment seems to have taken place in the routes, thereby depriving water supply to the lake. Moreover, sewage water has replaced stormwater. During the rains, the stormwater flow will be obstructed due to encroachments and clogging due to plastic waste. There is a need for the installation of STP at inlets that will ensure the untreated sewage water in the lake," added Selvarajan.

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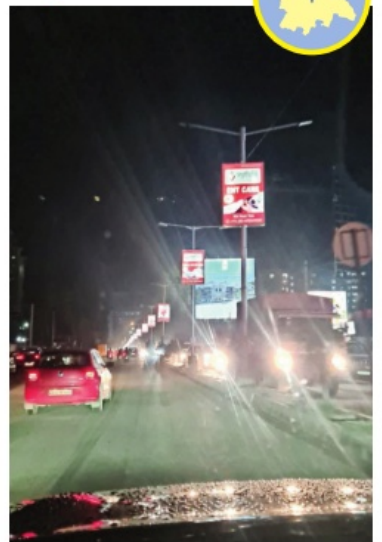
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Illegal parkers Jayanagar



Vehicles parked illegally in front of the No Parking board and on footpaths at 33rd Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar.

Glowing ads Seegehalli



All the advertisement boards are lit, but there are no street lights along Whitefield-Hoskote Road.

Dirt trek Valagerehalli



Near Darshan College on Mysore Road, Valagerehalli, people are forced to walk on a dirt road due to the lack of maintenance in the underpass area.

BMTC's bus bay shortage hinders traffic

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With Bengaluru having fewer bus bays than bus stops, unscientific bus stops turn into temporary traffic congestion points. Experts say that it's common for Bengalureans to witness traffic piling up as public transport buses wait to pick up passengers. In most cases, this is caused by bus stops located without bus bays, but in some cases, it could be due to their unscientific placement. Apart from a few locations, most of the city is equipped with bus stops without bus bays. City planners

must address this shortage to reduce traffic congestion in the city.

A resident of Jayanagar, Sabeesh Nambiar, told BM that the existing public transport system is not efficient. "We don't have a proper bus bay system in the city, and bikers tend to overtake from the left. This poses a safety risk for passengers getting off. In other cases, buses can be seen stopping in the middle of the road. Right after Jayadeva Hospital and towards Banashankari, this bus stop causes a lot of traffic pile up. The bus stop is right after the signal, and buses and cars stop there. Even when the traffic signal opens, the buses stop and create congestion. A dedicated bus lane could ad-

dress the problem. At least the bus stop should be shifted a few meters away."

He also added that the placement of bus stops on either side of the road leads to buses zig-zagging along the roads. "Buses traveling on the left side of the road can be seen moving to the right side of the road to reach the bus stop located on the

City planners must address the shortage of bus bays and placement of bus stops to reduce traffic congestion

other side. Buses need to be provided and only operated on the left lane," he added.

Civic activist, Rajkumar Dugar, observed similar instances on Millers Road and Cunningham Road. "There is one bus bay on Millers Road opposite Ambedkar. The bus bay has three bus shelters, and the fourth one is half inside and half onto the road. The fifth shelter is completely on the road, and it's very close to the signal. We have been requesting for the fourth and fifth shelters to be removed. Buses are stopping at any of the 5 shelters, and people have to run towards the buses. Buses stopping at the fifth shelter adjacent to the signal cause



traffic jams. In another instance, while travelling from Palace Road to Cunningham Road, they provided a bus stop at the turn. Buses cannot move easily at this stretch, and we have requested a road hump or a High-rise pedestrian crossing. Vehicles have to halt when the buses stop at the bus stop."

Traffic experts say that as per IRC and MoRTH standards, all bus stops must be at least 30 m from the junction.

Zip by like a bullet: Work on B'luru-Chennai train begins

Land surveys going on for bullet train; survey from Kolar to Chennai is over, detailed project report to follow

■ Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Despite the bullet train between the two southern capitals being a distant dream, progress is being made on the ground for the Mysuru-Bengaluru-Chennai bullet train project. Land surveys are currently underway, and the aerial survey is scheduled to commence soon. Following these surveys, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared by a Hyderabad-based company entrusted with conducting the satellite and land surveys. As of now, the land survey from Chennai to Kolar has been completed.

A few years back, the long-awaited high-speed rail corridor connecting Mysuru-Bengaluru-Chennai had received its first approval, with the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) initiating a ridership study for various high-speed corridors, including Mysuru-Chennai.

The fastest train between Bengaluru and Mysuru (Vande Bharat) currently takes 2 hours, while the same train takes around 4.25 hours to reach Chennai. The high-speed corridor is expected to reduce the travel time between Mysuru and Chennai to around 1.10 minutes, covering a distance of 435 km. The ridership survey is a crucial step before preparing the DPR, as it will analyse traf-



Surveys will collect 6,000 samples from long distance upper-class trains, airports, buses and tolls



fic data to estimate the potential demand and ridership for the proposed high-speed rail corridors.

The study will consider traffic data from the last five years from toll plazas on the Bengaluru-Chennai highway, as well as data from current rail and air travel for the same period. Additionally, data from government and private bus operators, as well as vehicle registration data from the last five years, will be taken into account. The study will also propose the fare structure for the high-speed rail, considering the Willingness to Pay (WTP) factor to ensure that the proposed ticket fares are attractive to passengers. The survey plans to collect at least 6,000 valid samples from long-distance upper-class trains, airports, bus terminals, and toll plazas, according to sources.

Officials said that the Mysuru-Bengaluru-Chennai region is a high-density corridor, popular not only among the masses but also among the business class. The objective is to reduce the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru to 45-60 minutes. The proposed high-speed train cutting across South India holds strategic significance for the country, and there are hopes to extend it from Mysuru to Mangaluru. The planned track is expected to be approximately 84 percent elevated, 11 percent in a tunnel, and the remainder at ground level. Detailed drawings will be prepared for areas where the track crosses rivers, canals, bridges, roads, and highways.

In terms of the number of stops along the route, there are differing opinions among activists. Some argue that there should be only one stop between Chennai and Mysuru, which is Bengaluru, as additional stops might defeat the purpose of having a bullet train. However,

“Now, the land survey is ongoing. The bullet train will not only reduce travel time, but also boost business

— S Muniswamy, Kolar MP

others propose having stations at Mysuru, Mandya, Channarayana, Bengaluru, Bangarpet, Chittoor, Arakkonam, and Poonamallee.

Earlier, a German team submitted the final feasibility report on the Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru bullet train to Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani, affirming that the high-speed train on the route is not only feasible but also manageable. The report suggested that the bullet train can achieve a maximum speed of 320 kilometres per hour.

Kolar MP, S Muniswamy expressed optimism, stating, "Currently, the land survey is ongoing, and the bullet train will not only significantly reduce travel time but also boost industrialisation."

CRIME FILES

Prime suspect in metro station stabbing killed

Gangster Mahesh N, alias Siddapura Mahesh, 33, was hacked to death in plain view shortly after his release from the Bengaluru central prison on Friday evening.

Mahesh, facing multiple charges of assault and murder in Bengaluru's south, is the prime suspect in the fatal stabbing of a hooligan named Madan N at Banashankari Metro Station on July 2, 2021.

The police are investigating the possible involvement of Wilson Garden Naga and Double Metre Mohan, both acquaintances of Madan, in Mahesh's murder.

The incident occurred around 9 p.m. on Friday, around a kilometer away from the Bengaluru Central prison, soon after Mahesh was granted bail in one of his cases.

The police are also questioning Gopi, the driver of the Toyota Etios vehicle that picked up Mahesh after his release. The assailants, reportedly arriving in two Innovas, stopped the car and savagely attacked Mahesh, leading to his death on the pavement. —BMB

Cab driver arrested for assault

In a shocking incident, a cab driver was arrested for sexually abusing and harassing a pregnant woman in public. The incident took place on July 29 within the jurisdiction of the Electronics City police station.

The accused, Avinash, a 26-year-old native of Kammasandra, Bengaluru, who worked for a private transport company, has been taken into jail by the court.

According to the police, the victim, a 32-year-old nurse, was leaving the health centre and heading towards a bus stop when the suspect approached her in an SUV and offered to drive her home.

Despite the victim declining the offer and walking away, the suspect followed her and began groping her. In response, the woman yelled and slapped him. Enraged, the accused attacked the victim. —BMB

Jumbos are card holders too

Forest department aims to examine well-being of elephants participating in Dasara festivities in Mysuru this year

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

For the first time, the forest department has introduced a 'health card' for elephants taking part in Dasara festivities. This measure aims to monitor the well-being of the elephants more closely. Additionally, a compulsory 'pregnancy test' for female elephants has been implemented for those participating in the 10-day festival starting on October 23, 2023.

Last year, during the Dasara celebrations, an elephant named Lakshmi gave birth to a male calf in the palace courtyard. This incident sparked outrage among wildlife enthusiasts, as bringing a pregnant elephant for training caused significant concern and widespread criticism of the forest department. In response to this, the forest department has taken several precautionary measures while selecting elephants for this year's Dasara procession. These measures include comprehensive health inspections and the issuance of individual health cards for each elephant.

Dr Malathi Priya M, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysuru circle, said, "The health card contains

By implementing these measures and conducting meticulous health checks, the forest department aims to ensure the safety, and appropriate treatment of the elephants — Officials



Dasara will be inaugurated on October 15, and Jumbo Savari will be held on October 24

essential information such as the elephant's name, age, weight, height, any existing diseases, and the status of its feet. For female elephants, the card also records their pregnancy status. This data will aid in ensuring the well-being of the elephants and preventing any unfortunate incidents during the festivities. The forest department team has already inspected nine elephants at the Mattigodu elephant camp, with inspections planned for the Ramapura, Dubare, and Bhimanakatte elephant camps. The finalised list of selected elephants will be released by the end of July."

Furthermore, to avoid any

unforeseen circumstances, pregnancy testing for female elephants has been made mandatory. Saswathi Mishra, APCCF (Elephant Project), has instructed the inclusion of blood and urine tests as part of the examination. This thorough inspection ensures that any health issues, including pregnancy, are identified if present within 90 days prior to the Dasara celebrations.

"By implementing these measures and conducting meticulous health checks, the forest department aims to ensure the safety, well-being, and appropriate treatment of the elephants brought to participate in Dasara. This approach intends to

avoid incidents like those experienced in the past and uphold the dignity and care of these majestic animals," said officials.

Dasara will be inaugurated on October 15, and Jumbo Savari will be held on October 24. This time, apart from Jumbo Savari, there will be a torchlight parade and air show in Mysuru. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that necessary infrastructure should be provided to the tourists who will visit Mysuru on the occasion of Dasara. The CM has already met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and has sought his ministry's permission to hold an air show at Mysuru in October.

HC dismisses NHAI's late appeal

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed an appeal filed by the National Highways Authority of India challenging an order passed in favour of a land owner, refusing to condone the delay of 270 days in filing the appeal.

A Sessions Court in Mandya passed the order in favour of a land owner under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act on March 30, 2021. After a delay of 605 days, the NHAI approached the High Court with an appeal.

By this time, the landowner, Meera Shivalingaiah, had filed an execution petition to implement the Sessions Court order. NHAI had filed its objections to the execution petition and then approached the HC with an appeal against the Sessions Court order.

Opposing the appeal, Meera Shivalingaiah contended that "the only reason forthcoming is that matter was sent for legal opinion and the file could not be found and could not be traced, are not the cogent reasons."

Citing a Supreme Court judgement, the HC said just because the government is involved, the delay cannot be condoned.

"With regard to the sufficient cause, merely because the government is involved, a different yardstick for condonation of delay cannot be laid down. In the case on hand, no doubt that the appeal was filed by the National Highway Authority, and there was no need to take an opinion for a period of two years.

Apart from that, even the appellants had knowledge about the filing of the execution petition, and in the said execution petition, they participated and filed a statement of objections on June 2, 2022 itself, and even immediately after filing the statement of objections, an appeal was not filed," Justice HP Sandesh said in his recent judgement. **PTI**

Ruling trend: Flu jabs for this rainy season

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

City hospitals over the last few weeks have registered a surge in demand for flu vaccines. According to some, the demand has almost doubled.

"The demand for flu shots has almost doubled in the last two months. Many above 18 years of age are walking in to get the shots. It is an inactive vaccine, which means it is made using a dead form of the viruses," said Dr Pavan Yadav from Aster RV Hospital.

Health experts say this surge in number can be due to high awareness regarding the vaccine since the second wave of the covid-19 pandemic. "Getting vaccinated decreases

your chances of contracting influenza, commonly known as the flu, and helps build immunity," said Dr Yadav.

Doctors say the flu vaccine is highly recommended as widespread vaccination reduces the strain on healthcare systems, preventing hospitalisations and saving lives.

Like any medical intervention, the flu vaccine may cause side effects, but they are generally mild and short-lived. Common side effects include soreness or redness at the injection site, low-grade fever, mild body aches, and severe allergic reactions, which are extremely rare.

However, experts caution that it is essential to consult a healthcare provider if there are serious concerns or a history of vaccine-related allergies. While some people may experience minor side effects, the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks, espe-



cially for those at higher risk of flu-related complications.

According to healthcare experts, the shot should be taken every year as the flu virus evolves and changes each season. Moreover, the shot is important for those who are at high risk of developing flu-related complications and health care workers.

"The Centre for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine. The flu virus evolves and changes each season, making previous immunity less effective against new strains. An annual flu shot ensures that your immune system is prepared to fight against the most current circulating viruses. One should get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine becomes available. It takes

about two weeks for the flu vaccine to start working, so you would want to make sure you are fully protected as soon as possible," said Dr Dayanand B from Apollo Clinic.

However, experts say the coverage of flu vaccines in adults is still lower in India compared to Western countries. Many are not aware of the advantages of taking flu shots during the rainy and winter months.

"The awareness of the flu vaccine is relatively lower in India. Most of the deaths caused by respiratory illness is due to pneumonia in elderly people who are suffering from diabetes, malignancy, and other immune-compromised states. So people above 50 years of age with underlying serious medical conditions must take flu shots during rainy and winter seasons," said Dr Balakrishna GK from BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital.

Caught in the IT act

562 arrested in state for social media posts in last 5 years

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Think twice before you lay everything bare on your social media handle. In the last five years, 562 people have been arrested in the State for posting derogatory or sleazy photos/information on social media. According to the home department, the maximum arrests were made in 2022.

According to data procured from the home department, as many as 562 people were arrested in the last five years. In 2018, only 21 were arrested; 2019-51; 2020-130; 2021-175 and 2022-185 people were arrested. An official said, "It has come to our notice that a section of people were posting sleazy and derogatory posts on social media. Hence, we have taken up a number of measures to curb such posts. If we identify posts that have a negative effect on students and youths, then we take strict action. The police identifies the cyber miscreants and register cases under IT Act and other offences. We are also writing to the heads

Officials say they take action if there are sleazy or derogatory posts on social media, especially those that can have a negative effect on students and youngsters. Those affected by such posts can also alert grievance cell

of the social media companies to remove such derogatory posts. We have also deployed officers for the grievance cell where people affected by social media posts can reach out and complain."

Meanwhile, there has been an increase in cases registered for various cyber crimes. As many as 80,379 cases have been filed in the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal till date from various districts in the State. Surprisingly, half of the state's cases are reported from Bengaluru alone. The portal has received 48,861 complaints from Bengaluru. Out of this, 40,777 are under process; 3,886 have been closed, 207 have been rejected, 2,776 are pending, FIRs are registered in only 137 cases, and cases have been withdrawn in 969 cases.

Home Minister G Parameshwara recently announced the formation of a high-level committee tasked with monitoring and curbing the spread of fake news on social media platforms. The committee comprises officials from the Home department, IT experts, and cyber specialists. In addition, the Minister revealed that a separate panel, led by the Chief Minister, will convene meetings with representatives from tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Twitter to discuss effective strategies for combating the dissemination of fake news on social media. The government's proactive



BLOCKED OUT

The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology issued directions under section 69A of the IT Act to block a total of 6,775 Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) in the year 2022. These URLs encompass webpages, websites, content, and accounts on social media platforms. In a recent parliamentary reply, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, stated that Section 69A of the IT Act and its corresponding rules grant the Government the authority to issue directions for blocking public access to any information generated, transmitted, received, stored, or hosted in any computer resource. This action may be deemed necessary or expedient in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defense of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order. It also serves to prevent incitement to the commission

approach reflects their commitment to ensuring accurate and reliable information is disseminated while

of any cognizable offense related to the aforementioned concerns. To execute the blocking of information under section 69A, the Government adheres to the process prescribed under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009.

The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal is an initiative of Government of India to facilitate victims/complainants to report cyber crime complaints online. "This portal caters to complaints pertaining to cyber crimes only with special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. Complaints reported on this portal are dealt by law enforcement agencies/ police based on the information available in the complaints. National police helpline number is 112. National women helpline number is 181 and Cyber Crime Helpline is 1930," said an official related to the portal.

safeguarding the public from the harmful effects of misinformation.

— IANS

How loan sharks have cast a web

After the death of an engineering student, who was trapped by loan app personnel, by suicide, police are advising caution against fake or fraudulent loan apps. Cybercrime branch sources told BM that complaints against instant loan apps have surged following the covid-19 lockdown.

The city cybercrime branch has received numerous reports of these apps targeting individuals in desperate need of money. Victims unknowingly download these apps and provide access to their contact lists, photo galleries, bank accounts, and other personal information stored on their smartphones.

"People are enticed by these apps with offers of small loans, though they lack the necessary permissions from the government or RBI. Once installed, the apps gain access to the user's contacts and other phone details. When borrowers fail to repay their loans, they are subjected to verbal abuse, harassment, defamation, and threats over the phone. These loan apps go as far as creating groups on social media, consisting of the borrower's family members, friends, and relatives, to publicly shame them by labeling them as fraudsters and thieves. Even if the borrower pays back the loan, exorbitant interest rates are often imposed, forcing individuals into further financial burden. The apps also share victims' data with other suspicious websites and apps, increasing the risk of cybercrimes," said an official.

These apps gained popularity due to their ability to provide loans to individuals without considering creditworthiness or requiring extensive documentation such as KYC details. Loans are disbursed after deducting various charges and GST, and interest is charged on the total amount borrowed.

Police authorities strongly advise against trusting such apps and emphasise on the importance of never granting access to contacts and personal information. An official gave the following tips, "Avoid downloading instant loan apps that lack proper licenses from relevant authorities; do not share personal and banking credentials with anyone; always read and understand the terms and conditions before proceeding; verify licences to ensure the app has obtained permissions from authorities such as RBI or the local authorities; refrain from downloading any app that requests access to contacts, files, or galleries on your phone; be cautious of app links received through text messages, emails, or social media and avoid downloading apps through these channels."

Officials expressed confidence that by exercising caution, individuals can protect themselves from the dangers of loan apps. —BMB

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

ARRIVAL

A spot-billed pelican landing in the waters of Sarakki Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

Bad roadwork washing away effortlessly

Road connecting Gottigere to Jambusavari to Kembathalli Road turns dangerous; commuters say nothing has been done despite several complaints

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Due to the low quality of the roads, they deteriorate in no time. In the case of Gottigere to Jambusavari to Kembathalli Road, the road had multiple potholes last year; however, with no fixation or restoration of the road, the road is now washing off, and the daily commuters are facing difficulty in their commute.

In November 2022, Poongothai Paramasivam, a regular commuter on the stretch, complained to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) major road department to fix the potholes at the stretch. However, the complaint was not taken up, and the road has now gotten into a bad state.

"In 2023, during the months of March and April, the roads parallel to Gottigere were asphalted as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had come to the city. While we have been complaining since last year to restore this stretch, the common man's complaints or requests have gone to deaf ears," said Poongothai.

The Gottigere Road is used by hundreds of commuters as it leads to the Konanakunte metro station at Kanakapura Road.

"The 3-kilometre stretch has multiple potholes. Even though the BBMP office is next to the main road, it hasn't been con-



The stretch has multiple potholes and doesn't have proper drainage system

sidered to be fixed. In many places, the road is also sinking. It is a challenge for two-wheeled vehicles to commute through this stretch. Many are even complaining of backaches who are using this road daily. Some have even complained about minor accidents," explained Poongothai.

Other commuters added that it is utterly dangerous to ride on the stretch.

A regular commuter, Arjun S, said, "I had three to four near-miss accidents when commuting through this stretch. Despite riding slowly, due to the unevenness of the stretch, there is a higher chance of imbalance while riding. I have escaped close to falling on the road and getting injured".

Commuters pointed out that just filling the potholes and carrying out patchwork leads to more uneven roads. Hence, the road needs to be taken up for asphaltting as a priority. Poongothai mentioned that the road does not have a proper drainage system. Several times, the road is seen with the accumulation of drain water on the stretch, and with the presence of potholes, the water tends to stagnate in the potholes.

DID YOU KNOW?



Director Saad Khan was brought up in Bengaluru. He rose to fame after his Kannada-English feature film 'Humble Politician Nograj' became a hit in 2018. The movie is known for achieving a worldwide digital audience on OTT platform Amazon's Prime Video. It was 2008, when Khan's short film 'Another Kind of Black' was screened at the Cannes Film Festival. He went to Ramiah Institute of Technology in Bengaluru to pursue mechanical engineering. He also holds a degree certificate from Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How do you think the problem of vendors occupying footpaths can be resolved without adversely impacting all parties involved?



S Krishnaswamy, BM Reader

Vendors are blessed by local self-styled politicians, the police, and the BBMP. In the evening, they also enjoy power. It may help them for their livelihood, but definitely not at the cost of pedestrians' limbs and lives. Authorities should do away with it totally.



Anil Kumar B, BM Reader

Ideally, clusters in nearby open spaces could be created, and the vendors could be moved there. The issue lies with the buyers who park their vehicles on the roads.



Balaji M, BM Reader

Establish a 'Footpath Harmony' initiative, blending vendors' offerings to create curated zones. Incorporate art installations, seating, and greenery for shared enjoyment, fostering unity among both vendors and pedestrians.



Sharath PM, BM Reader

BBMP should coordinate with ward members to designate vendor timings that do not disturb the public. Allocate specific places and times based on customer trends in each ward.



Leo, BM Reader

Removing street and footpath vendors completely is a costly and impractical decision. Instead, the government should strategically assign empty spaces, owned by the government, to vendors, helping them set up shops and meet the needs of Bengalureans.



Sourabh VJ, BM Reader

To strike a balance, focus on thoughtful urban planning and infrastructure improvement. Create wider pavements, pedestrian-friendly zones, and consider street vending while designing public spaces to accommodate both foot traffic and vendors.

SPEAK TO US

Given a single day in Bengaluru, which are the places that you would advise a visitor to go see?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on **9591233247**



MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Ways to keep fit

"Individuals try various ways to keep themselves motivated to exercise regularly in the chill, but laziness may take over dedication and focus," says Aditi Gupta, coach at FITTR who shares ways to stay fit.

Set Realistic Goals

People must be clear about their specific goals. Lifting heavier weights, jogging, running with pets, or just walking are all examples. Whatever goals they choose, the ideal approach is when people force themselves out of bed to achieve their training objectives.

Adopt Outdoor And Indoor Exercise Variations

This is important for people because indoor and outdoor exercise routines such as home yoga, swimming, weightlifting, strength training options, brisk walking, and so on keep them motivated and dedicated throughout. We must prioritise the training methods that we prefer and enjoy so that they could be practiced. Furthermore, walking outside in natural sunlight will help increase Vitamin D levels.

Choose Right Company

When a person works out alone, they are more likely to miss workouts. But there is some social pressure when people work out every day with a partner or in a group. So, they have better results in terms of following through, doing well, and having fun. People usually go to group classes because their partners have similar interests and eventually become friends. They wait for each other and support each other socially, which is an added benefit over working out alone.

Schedule A Specific Time For Exercise

To make exercise a daily part of our routine, we should write down our workout routines on the calendar every day. Despite a hectic schedule, scheduling habits can help you find time for exercise.

—Femina

KHATTE BAINGAN

"Khatte Baingan" is a delightful Indian dish featuring small brinjals in a tangy and aromatic base gravy.

INGREDIENTS

- 500g Peanuts roasted
- 500g Sesame seeds
- roasted 500g Coconut
- roasted 3 tbsp Red chili powder
- 2 tbsp Coriander powder
- 1 tbsp Jeera powder
- 0.25tbsp Turmeric
- 5g Fresh mint
- 5g Fresh coriander
- 200g Oil • 1g methi seeds
- 1g Kalonji • 1g Jeera
- 2g Curry leaves
- 4 Slit green chili
- 50g Ginger garlic paste
- 100g Tamarind paste
- 1kg Small brinjal
- Salt to taste

METHOD

- For the base gravy, grind the first three ingredients together to make a paste
- Then mix the remaining ingredients of the gravy and keep aside
- Prepare the baby brinjal by slitting into quarters ensuring to keep the brinjal intact
- Shallow fry in oil and keep aside
- For the tempering, take ghee in a lagan put the methi, kalonji and cumin seeds and let it crackle
- Add the curry leaves and slit green chili
- Add ginger garlic paste and the base gravy
- Add water and tamarind paste and cook till the oil rises
- Add the fried brinjal and check the seasoning.

Prep Time: 1 hours
Cooking Time: 1 hours
Serves 12



Welcome to Rampur

Recipes from the best kept secret cuisine that is result of zealous crafting by 'bawarchis'



DABAL SHAAHI TUKDA

"Shaahi Tukda" is a delectable Indian dessert that exudes regal indulgence.

INGREDIENTS

- 12 Bread
- 1ltr Milk
- 0.005g saffron
- 10ml kewra water
- 5ml itar
- 200g khoya
- 250g sugar
- 20g almonds

METHOD

- Deep fry

Prep Time: 1 hours
Cooking Time: 30 mins
Serves 4

- bread and keep aside.
- Boil milk and add kewra water, saffron water, and itar in it.
- Pour flavoured milk on fried bread and keep it on the side.
- In the meanwhile, prepare khoya rabri.
- Take milk and reduce it to half.
- Then add khoya to it
- Take the bread and pour rabri on it and allow it to cool for half an hour
- Serve chilled with chopped almonds on top.



KALE CHANNE KE SHAMMI

Kale Channe Ke Shammi harmoniously blends the hearty goodness of black channa and chana dal, slow-cooked to perfection with a medley of aromatic.

INGREDIENTS

- 500g Black Channa
- 50g chana dal

Prep & Cook time: 1 hours & 15 mints
Serves 5



- 20g coriander seed
- 5g cumin • 10g cinnamon
- 10g cardamom • 5g clove
- 5g bay leaf • 10g whole red chili
- 100g potato • 10g black pepper
- 100g onion • 10g green chili
- 20g mint • 20g ginger
- 320g coriander fresh
- Salt to taste

METHOD

- Mix the first 10 ingredients all together, and keep it on slow flame and cook it till black gram gets soft
- Mince the gram and let it cook
- After mincing mix chopped onion, ginger, green chili, mint, and coriander all together.
- And after that, make roundles and shallow fry it.



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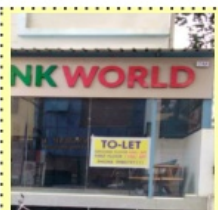
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ಕಂದು + ಕೆಂಪು ಬಣ್ಣದ ಪಟ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲುಗಳು
• Black coat and black tail with white tip
ಕಪ್ಪು ಬಣ್ಣದ ಬಣ್ಣ + ಬಿಳಿ ತುದಿ ಇರುವ ಕಪ್ಪು ಬಾಲ
Last seen: HBR Layout, 2nd block, near Iskcon temple
ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಕಂಡಿದ್ದು: HBR ಲೇಔಟ್ 2-ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಇಸ್ಕನ್ ಧರ್ಮಸ್ಥಾನದ ಬಳಿ

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No respite for Nallurahalli's storm water drains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

re-constructed as soon as the Chief Minister visited the area and left.

"The SWD engineers demolished the compound walls and removed a few structures that encroached the storm water drain a few days before the then Chief Minister visited the area last year. However, there was no progress in clearing encroachment on the storm water drain. The property owner has reconstructed the compound wall," said CM Chandrasekhar, a resident of Nallurahalli.

Agreeing with Chandrasekhar, another resident of Nallurahalli, Govind Raju, said that he was disappointed with the SWD engineers' work as they had failed to keep storm water drains free from illegal constructions and garbage. "The SWD engineers commenced clearing of encroachments on the storm water drain but later the anti-encroachment drive came to a grinding halt," said Govind Raju.

A few residents of the area told BM that some builders who had encroached upon the storm water drain may have bribed the BBMP officials.

"The BBMP SWD engineers have no proper plan to clear the encroachments on the storm water drains. Now, they have stopped clearing the encroachments entirely. Debris dumped during the demolition drive is yet to be removed from the storm water drain," said a resident.

Blaming the previous government for incomplete development of storm water drains in and around Mahadevapura, Nagesh T, who contested in last Assembly election on a Congress ticket, said that he has already written a letter to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar requesting him to take measures to clear the encroachment of storm water drains.

"A compound wall of a residential apartment complex was demolished last year but it is reconstructed. The elected representative and BBMP SWD engineers did nothing to stop the reconstruction of the wall. The BBMP Storm Water Department engineers are bound to maintain the storm water drains to avoid flooding during monsoon," said Nagesh.

BBMP SWD assistant executive engineer remained unavailable for comment.

Staggered timings may be the solution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, he added that many companies may not abide by specific timings as they are required to work based on their client requirements.

"I work for a company based in the UK so I am mandated to work during hours that align with them and this cannot be subjected to changes. Other companies in the vicinity that do not have a fixed schedule can be requested to change their timings," he explained. He also suggested that companies who can afford to work in the hybrid model must do so instead of mandating work from the office for employees.

On the other hand, cab drivers and operators who

are on contract with the companies to pick up and drop employees are wary of such a plan.

"We cannot rely only on the employment provided by these IT companies for all our needs. We also need to do other pickups. Some of us are aligned with pick up and drop of school children, while many other drivers have other commitments," said Mithun, a cab driver.

He noted that a sudden change might leave them with reduced employment opportunities, resulting in a blow to the drivers' community and suggested that a thorough study, which also incorporates the views of cab service operators, must be made to check the feasibility of the plan.



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I, CHETAN KRISHNAIAH GOWDA residing at Flat No 106, MBM Elegance, 18th Main, 18th Cross, J P Nagar, 5th PH, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560078 have changed my name from CHETAN KRISHNAIAH to CHETAN KRISHNAIAH GOWDA vide affidavit dated 02.08.2023 Sworn Before Notary Onkarappa N.R Bangalore

I, Bindu Madhavi Kancharla W/o Chaitanya Vihari Kancharla R/o Flat no 304, Sai Sahas Apt. Sarjapur Rd, Carmelaram, Chikkabellandur, Bengaluru-35 have changed my name to Bindu Madhavi Modugumudi for all purposes

I, Savarala Venkatesu S/o S Murali born on 01/06/1993 R/o 22-02, Chippaarpalli, Gandhipuram, Penumur, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517126, have changed my name to S Venkatesh vide affidavit dt 22/08/2023 at Bangalore-77

I, Vijay Sadashiva s/o Sadashivaraj R/o #51/F Matru Krupa behind Shanthi Nagar Canara Bank Colony Subramanyapura, B'loru-560061. Have Changed my name to Vijay Sadashivaraj for all Purposes.

I, Badrinatha R/o #68/1, Lakshmi Vallabha, Maruthi Layout, Subramanyapura, B'loru-560061. I have changed my name to Badrinatha Joshi for all Purposes.

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Censored Barbie



is pondering over the possibility of a full on ban.

The movie was a big point in the Middle East because despite it being a fun hearted family comedy movie, the films' LGBTQ+ themes alongside its consumerist attitude did not fare well in the Middle East, with Israel having released it.

Earlier, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had begun promoting its own local pictures such as 'Sattar' which overtook James Cameron's 'Avatar 2: The Way of Water' by a massive margin. While they had surprisingly declared that they will release 'Barbie', much to the surprise of

many, now the country has hinted at a possible ban.

As reported by 'Variety', the reason for this stems from a multi-layered web covering both the country's politics and religious aspects as well as social and cultural apprehensions.

The censor board of the country remains divided on the issue as some suggest that the movie has little to no harm to do the country's norms and social fabric, and with some edits to the movie, such as Barbie deriding aspects of patriarchy and whatnot, the movie could be released.

But now there is a growing fear that the movie will promote too many Western values in the country and also result in people cashing in on Barbie

dolls at a difficult economic time. Plus there is the additional fear that this could potentially damage the social fabric of the country, promoting values incompatible with the country's values. The movie was already aired in the UAE and was even given a massive appearance on the Burj Khalifa, and KSA also had little problem with the movie, but with the

increasing criticism the movie has gotten from global audiences regarding its preachy attitude regarding patriarchy and promotion of LGBTQ themes has resulted in the country reconsidering its August 31 release date.

As such the movie has been postponed until KSA censor boards come to a full agreement, but as of such, the movie may well just end up facing a ban. —IANS

Greta Gerwig's 'Barbie' has been a point of contention in the Middle East and a lot of Islamic countries, with certain countries having banned

it altogether such as Qatar and Kuwait. The movie was released in the UAE, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was planning on releasing it on August 31 after making a few edits. But now the country

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VIJAY PRAKASH | PRIYANKA BARVE

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Rujuta Prabhu

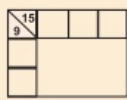
Shruthi Raghavendran

MATRIXARK Design Partner

It took Dave one and half hour to bicycle ten km against the wind. It took him twenty minutes to return with the wind at his back. How long would it take him to bicycle the ten km with no wind?

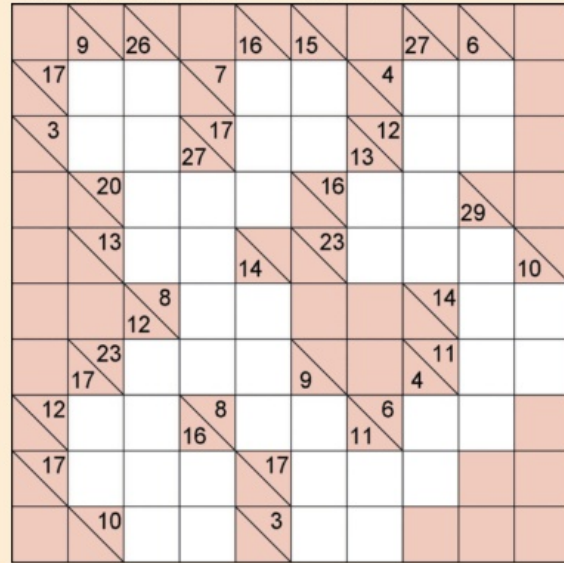
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

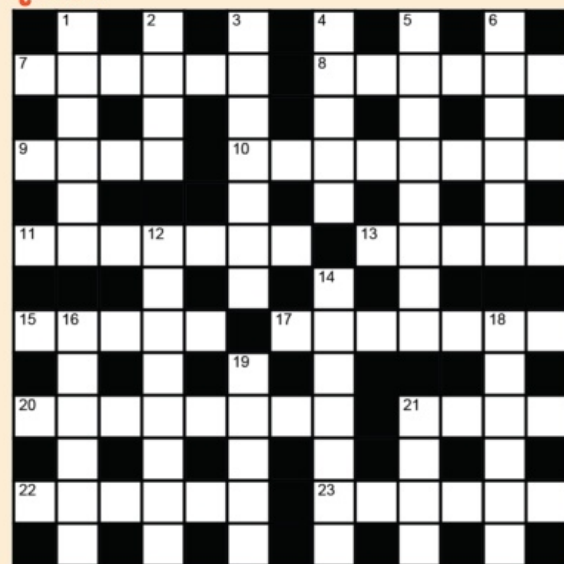


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Depressingly dreary (6)
- 8 Bird house (6)
- 9 Render unconscious (4)
- 10 Take off from the launching site (5,3)
- 11 Glitter or shine or scintillate (7)
- 13 Cut dramatically (5)
- 15 Clips or prunes (5)
- 17 Observe scrupulously; be insistent about? (5,2)
- 20 Liveliness (8)
- 21 Curb, check (4)
- 22 Get back (6)
- 23 Unfastened or brought to ruin (6)

DOWN

- 1 Main tent in circus (3,3)
- 2 So be it! (4)
- 3 Droplet (7)
- 4 Ex-President APJ Abdul Kalam (5)
- 5 An athletic contest in skiing and shooting (8)
- 6 Inducts or designs (6)
- 12 50 kms from Bangalore, this area is a favourite for rock climbers (8)
- 14 Stick around, don't move (4,3)
- 16 Attacked, struck or invaded (6)
- 18 Adjust to a specific need (6)
- 19 Metallic-sounding (5)
- 21 Slender bars (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G
CSEJOCK OY MY OQOEMEOK
MY EJV HWPUSU UJS DJMEY
APWYMCEPG UJOPW JW'Y
SRWQDJMQOCK GSZ



Linemaro

Feel my shirt. It's made of? Boyfriend material



Mindchow

Let us not look back in anger or forward in fear, but around in awareness



Joke of the day

George: Granny, have you seen my pills, they were labelled LSD? Granny: Blow the pills, have you seen the dragons in the kitchen?

Loop

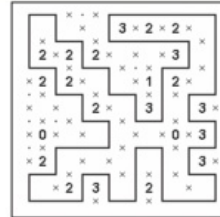
Rules

Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. You can't draw lines around zeros. Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

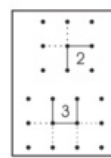
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

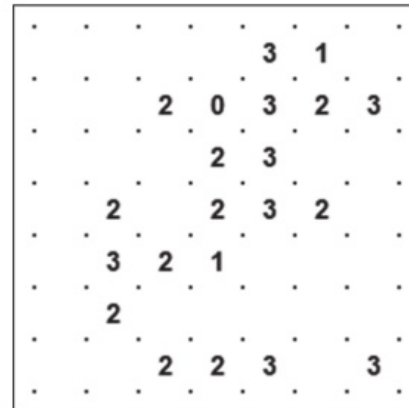
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



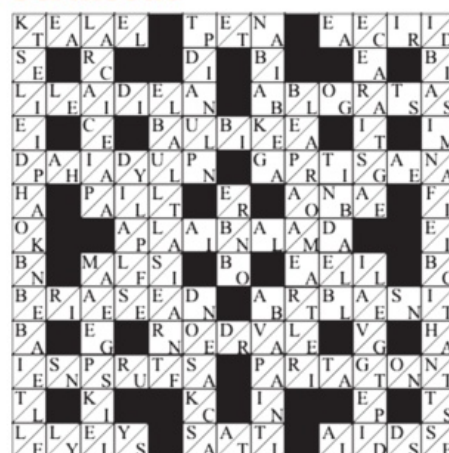
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

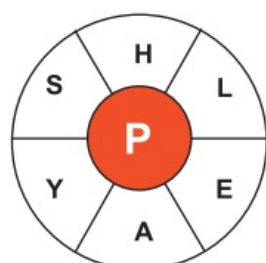
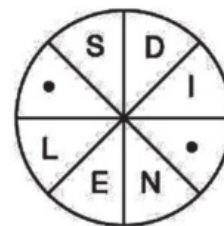
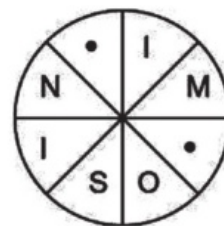
- 1 Sonet; 6 Le Pap;
- 7 Weird; 8 Amnia;
- 9 Being

DOWN

- 1 Bwana; 2 Open I;
- 3 Grips; 4 Emile;
- 5 Andes

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the blanks to find two words that are synonyms.



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron tie is different. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Collar is different. 5. Flower is smaller. 6. Window on front of counter is smaller.

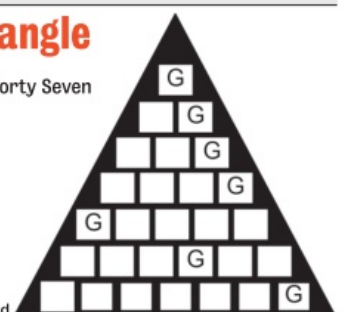
Riddler

If a piece of rope was tightly wrapped around the earth and you added 3 feet to its length, how high could you uniformly raise it from the earth's surface?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Gram, abbr.
- 2 Atomic number Forty Seven
- 3 Cloth fragment
- 4 Telephoned
- 5 Cereal
- 6 Border
- 7 Cultivating

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

The BETTER HALF

by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET STANLEY PARKER



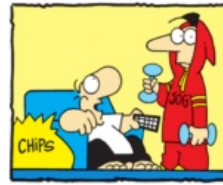
"You've got shirts hanging from your treadmill and laundry piled up on your weight bench. You must have the fittest clothes in town."



"Nothing about the weather surprises me anymore. Let's just enjoy it."



"We had a non-traditional ceremony I recited a favorite romantic poem, then he said 'are we done yet?'"



"I like being out of shape! People never ask me to help them move heavy furniture."



"Of course the computer keeps freezing. Your fingers are like ice."



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, your business plans are likely to be successful with the support of your subordinates. You may have short business travels, which will benefit you in the near future. You may also be involved in social and family gatherings, which can help expand your social network.



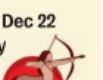
Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today is a good day. In business, you may get new clients, which will be helpful for growth in terms of profits. Singles are likely to find a good match. In domestic life, you must avoid hiding anything from your spouse, otherwise, it may create a gap in your relationship. Job seekers may be likely to get a new job, and there are chances of promotions in their current job.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may be happy and have mental peace. You are likely to be busy with friends and family. You may enjoy your domestic life, and bonding with your spouse is likely to increase, which will maintain domestic harmony. There may be a new partnership in your business, and new innovations may help your business to grow.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today is a good day for gains. You may make good plans to get a good return on your investments. You are likely to save money by avoiding spending on unnecessary things, which will boost your savings. Lovebirds may be busy with family functions.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You can use your wisdom to gain profits. Additionally, you may experience harmony in your domestic life, with good understanding between you and your spouse. Natives related to metal and booking agents will perform better.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may begin your day with positive thinking. You may find yourself in a winning position against your opponents and hidden enemies. Your work may be praised by your seniors, and you may receive new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Students are blessed by the moon, which will guide them on the right path to choose good career options.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may be busy with issues related to siblings and relatives. However, you can expect some support at work, which will help your work run smoothly. Your network may assist you in completing your tasks successfully. You may also plan to start a new venture with the help of your siblings and network. There may be some smart gains with just a little effort.



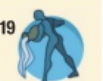
Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you are feeling more religious, and you may plan to visit a religious place to find peace of mind. You may also donate some amount to charity or a spiritual place. People around you may receive help and support from you, both in terms of finance and moral support. You can enjoy every moment with satisfaction and patience.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may be busy with family issues. You may explore additional sources of income and experience gains. You might take an interest in artefacts, movies, and glamour, which can improve your creativity. Lovebirds have a clear view of their relationships. Students may now proceed confidently towards their career.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may have a dull feeling, which could affect your health. It's possible that you may not get the desired results from your professional meetings and feel like you've wasted time. However, from late evening, disappointments may turn into happiness. You are advised to avoid rush driving or adventure tours.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may have a dull feeling. You are advised to control your short temper. Your focus is tested many times, so you should try to avoid getting scattered in pursuit of your goals. It is advised not to invest in worthless stuff. Love birds are advised to avoid making arguments on trivial topics.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

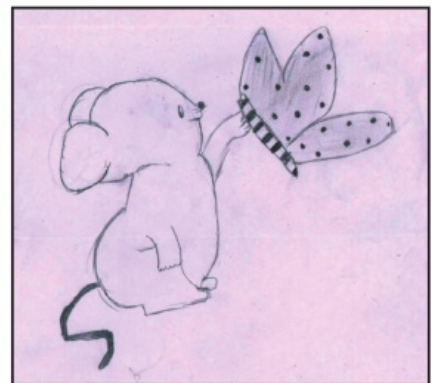
Today, you may have many options, which may make you confused. You may decide to visit your elders for consulting with them before making any important decisions. Your past karma may guide you to the right path in terms of work and domestic life. Today, you should be careful about your parents' health.



KIDZONE



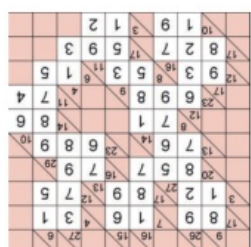
Dhruva VG, 7 years, Kensri School



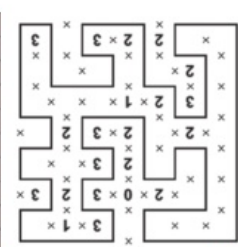
Nithyashree KL, 13 years, Asian International Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP

5 x 9 + 9 = 27
Hard
6 - 6 x 5 + 2 = 2
Medium
9 + 9 + 3 + 9 = 30
Easy
GO FIGURE
Farming.
Marlin.
Rang.
Gram.
G. Ag. Rag.



SUDOKU

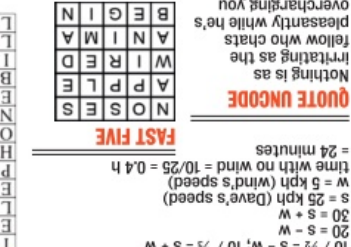
5 x 9 + 9 = 27
Hard
6 - 6 x 5 + 2 = 2
Medium
9 + 9 + 3 + 9 = 30
Easy
GO FIGURE
Farming.
Marlin.
Rang.
Gram.
G. Ag. Rag.



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT

SOLVE IN 1M

When a wronged woman hits back



SHEELA

2.5
RATING



- **DIRECTOR** Balu Narayanan
- **ACTORS** Ragini Dwivedi, Riyaz Khan, Avinash, Chitra Shenoy, Shobharaj, Sunil Sukhada
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **DURATION** 105 minutes

Director Balu Narayanan has narrated a touch tale that shows how single women, irrespective of their status in society, are vulnerable to cheating and sexual violence. He has also succeeded in showcasing black sheep among the police who can stoop to any low to quench their lust and greed.

The movie is about Sheela (Ragini Dwivedi), a widow with a daughter from Bengaluru, coming to Kerala to sell her estate Misty Heaven due to financial problems. On the way, Sheela has to encounter an auto rickshaw driver and his friend. But she manages to reach Misty Heaven without any hassles. The buyers, who agreed to buy the resort for a few crores, change their mind and start bargaining with her. She is persuaded to sell the estate at Rs 3.50 crore and fixes the date to complete the formalities. Without knowing what is in store for her, Sheela decides to stay the night at the Misty Heaven. She asks Chandranna (Mohammed Eravattoor), who works at Misty Heaven, to stop renting out the rooms at the resort.

However, Chandranna convinces Sheela to allow John, a local politician, to spend a few hours at the resort. Later, an auto rickshaw driver and his friend, and others join John for a drink. While attending

a phone call, Sheela comes out of her room and sees the auto rickshaw driver and his friend who she had a run-in with while on the way to the resort. She asks them to get out. What happens to Sheela and how she takes revenge on those who assaulted her sexually is what the movie is all about.

Ragini Dwivedi, as a wronged woman, has acted well. Her performance, in assault scenes, is stellar. She walks away with all honours for her sterling performance in scenes where she eliminates vicious people one by one, including a corrupt and greedy deputy superintendent of police.

Riyaz Khan is convincing as a lecherous and corrupt police inspector. Sunil Sukhada, as a politician-cum-middleman, has acted well. Mohammed Eravattoor, Chitra Shenoy, Shobharaj, and Avinash provide good support.

Music by Abhay David and cinematography by Arun K pass the muster.

It is worth a watch, but only if you have the stomach for gore.

—Y Maheswara Reddy



Not true!

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who has been on a break and has been treating her fans with beautiful pictures from her holiday, has refuted the claims of her taking Rs 25 crore from a Telugu superstar for her treatment of Myositis. The actress also called out the media for false reportage.

Myositis is a medical condition causing

inflammation in muscles. Weakness, swelling, and pain are the most common Myositis symptoms. In October last year, the actress shared on her social media that she was diagnosed with Myositis.

On Saturday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram and penned a note in which she outrightly denied taking any kind of financial help.

She wrote, "Rs 25 crore to treat Myositis!? Someone got you a pretty bad deal. I am glad I am only spending

the smallest fraction of that. And, I don't think I was paid in marbles for all the work I've done in my career". She further mentioned that she is capable of taking care of herself and her medical expenses given her work in the industry. "So, I can easily take care of myself. Thank you. Myositis is a condition thousands suffer from. Let's please be responsible with the information we put out regarding the treatment," she added.

—IANS

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